

## **ABSTRACT**

In a method of open and / or closed-loop control of a welding tong movement by means of a welding tong drive, which comprises at least one primary and one secondary drive device, the primary drive device moves at least two welding tong limbs with welding electrodes towards a welding object from essentially opposite sides. Then the welding tong limbs are pressed onto the welding object with a specified compressive force. During its actuation the secondary drive device varies a spatial orientation of the welding tongs and in particular of the welding tong limbs. In order to be able to carry out the contacting of the welding object by the welding tongs in a controlled manner and to be able to reliably acquire any deviations from the specified spatial points during contacting, the welding tongs first approach a certain spatial point relative to the welding object, the welding tongs are held in a fixed spatial orientation during the approach, the secondary drive device is actuated up to contacting the welding object with at least one welding tong limb and the contacting is acquired and then the welding tongs are closed by the primary drive device under the build-up of a suitable welding pressure.